

This exploitation of race, religious and other prejudices was carried to an extreme limit in the recent by-elections in Quebec, and accounts in the main for the defeat of the government candidates. It may prove all to the good that the people of Quebec have been put on their guard thus early. I am perfectly certain that any appreciable numbers of the population of that province will not allow themselves to be misled by these false prophets. They have already been denounced by the overwhelming majority of the members of parliament from Quebec. But let there be no mistake about it, the poison which they are spreading needs to be counteracted, actively and vigorously, by all who believe in the unity and the destiny of Canada as a great and free nation.

I shall not take time to refer to other parties such as the Social Credit Party, which is shrinking rapidly, and the most recent of all, ^{the latest progressive party,} the Labour-Progressive party. The existence of these minor parties does, however, point to a danger which threatens the effective working of our Parliamentary democracy. It is the tendency to multiply parties and groups. The fate of unhappy France should be a terrible warning against this trend. It constitutes a national peril.

I have said enough to let you see how I account for the defeat of government candidates in the recent by-elections.